



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle....A House?

We apply the three R's to our purchases and waste disposal practices, but have you ever thought of recycling your house, or parts and pieces of it, during a teardown, renovation or even a small remodeling project? Why not!? According to the Deconstruction Institute, in Charlotte County, Florida, the demolition of buildings in the United States produces **124,670,000 tons** of debris each year. One year's debris is enough to build a wall about 30 feet high and 30 feet thick around the entire coast of the continental United States! That is a lot of waste!



REDUCE – Bigger is not always better! A well thought out, properly sized renovation designed to comfortably fit your family or the intended building occupants uses less raw materials to build, and uses less energy to heat and cool over the lifecycle of the building. Less building footprint, means more trees and natural vegetation that allow rainwater to absorb into the ground as nature intended, improving water quality in our nearby streams.

REUSE – Many building components are reusable! Vanities, cabinets, light fixtures, interior doors, wood timbers, windows and other items in good condition can be donated to reuse programs such as Habitat for Humanity or Community Forklift, where they are sold in reuse stores or used in low cost homes. You will save disposal fees and diminishing landfill space, you may be eligible for a tax deduction and you will help a worthy charity. That's four benefits in one!

RECYCLE – What items are recyclable? Aluminum ductwork, conduit and junction boxes, copper pipes and wiring, wood, bricks and even concrete can be recycled. Aluminum and copper have resale value while other items are recycled to save the disposal costs and landfill space.

REBUY – The recycling process is not complete until collected materials are reused or used to manufacture new products and those products are sold. Consumer demand for recycled-content products drives recycling and makes it economically viable. Look for recycled content when purchasing new drywall, insulation, carpet and other materials.

HOW TO GET STARTED? Visit the www.BuildersRecyclingGuide.com to find charities and businesses that will accept materials for reuse and recycling in the Metro D.C. area. You'll be surprised by the type and number of materials that can find a new home outside the local landfill. Check out the EPA's Web site on Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris (www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/debris-new/index.htm). Before you start a project, make it clear to your contractor that you would like to keep as much as possible out of the landfill. Many contractors already have some experience with deconstruction. You can also pick up a hard copy of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments *Builders Guide to Reuse and Recycling* at City Hall, Department of Environmental Services, 3rd Floor West Wing, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church.

Spring into Action – Mark Your Calendar!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Need service hours? Looking for a way to help in the community? There are plenty of volunteer opportunities! Please call Kathy Allan 703-248-5176 or email kallan@fallschurchva.gov.

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL EVENTS

Learn how to remove English ivy and other non-native invasive plants at these informative hands-on events. Sponsors: Environmental Services Council Invasive Plant Removal Task Group and the City of Falls Church. Call Jeremy Edwards, 703-248-5016, for details.

- **Saturday, March 31 - 10 AM to noon.** Hamlett / Rees Park. Meet at the end of Rollins St.
- **Saturday, May 19 - 10 AM to noon.** Cherry Hill Park. Meet at the Basketball Court.
- **Sunday, June 3** – Native Plant Sale in conjunction with the Watershed Friendly Garden Tour (pre-orders only). Contact Melissa Teates, melanite@verizon.net or 703-538-6961, for information.



Saturday, April 14 – 8:30 AM to noon (Rain date Sunday, April 15 – 1 PM to 4:30 PM) TREE PLANTING PARTY

Help plant new trees in the City right-of-way along selected streets during this spring's Neighborhood Tree Program event. Meet at the corner of Jackson St. and Jackson Court. Sponsors: City of Falls Church and the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society. Call Seth Heminway, 703-536-3049, for details.

Saturday, April 21 - 10 to 11:30 AM SPRING CLEANUP & PICNIC

Join in the fun of working together at the City's 19th Annual Spring Cleanup. Come to the Community Center to register for a work team. After a morning of litter pickup, return for a delicious "thank you" picnic with food provided by local Falls Church restaurants. Sponsors: City of Falls Church and the Falls Church Environmental Services Council Cleanup Task Group. Call 703-248-5176 to register.

Saturday, April 21 - 3 PM

ARBOR DAY

The 117th Annual Falls Church Arbor Day Celebration will be held at Frady Park (300 block of E. Broad Street). Program includes an historic re-enactment, tree planting and refreshments. Sponsors: City of Falls Church, Village Preservation and Improvement Society, Falls Church Victorian Society, and Falls Church Garden Club.

Saturday, April 28 - 9 AM to 2 PM

RECYCLING EXTRAVAGANZA

Bring your used computers and other electronics, clothing and textiles, bicycles, printer cartridges, eyeglasses, hearing aids, portable sewing machines, wheelchairs, crutches and canes to the Falls Church Recycling Center (217 Gordon Road). Co-sponsors: City of Falls Church and the Falls Church Environmental Services Council. For a complete list of acceptable items, go to www.fallschurchva.gov or call the Falls Church Recycling Hotline at 703-248-5160.

Sunday, May 6 – 2:30 to 6:00 PM

LNWS TEAM LEADER TRAINING

Learn how to be a Livable Neighborhood Water Stewardship Team Leader in your neighborhood. Help your neighbors learn about water quality and water conservation by leading a team through a series of water friendly activities. Falls Church Community Center. Call Kathy Allan, 703-248-5176, for details and to sign up. Sponsors: City of Falls Church, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Fairfax County.

Saturday, May 19 - 8 AM to 1 PM

PROPERTY YARD OPEN HOUSE

Come to the City's Property Yard (7100 Gordon Road) and see your tax dollars at work! Staff from the City's Operations Division will provide equipment and utility demonstrations, displays, and an opportunity to see the main building, trucks, and warehouse. Highlights are activities, door prizes, refreshments and photos with the equipment. Parking in the Shreve Road parking lot adjacent to the Property Yard. Sponsor: City of Falls Church. Call 703-248-5081 for details.

Monday, May 28

MEMORIAL DAY

Come see the Environmental Services Council Booth and Invasive Plant Removal Booth with lots of information about our environment. City Hall, 300 Park Avenue. Sponsor: City of Falls Church.

Sunday, June 3 - 1 to 5 PM

WATERSHED-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

Several watershed-friendly sites, including private residences and public locations, will be featured. Don't miss this great opportunity to talk with homeowners and tour guides about landscaping and rainwater collection systems that improve the water quality of our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. Sponsors: City of Falls Church, Arlington County, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, City of Alexandria, and Fairfax County. Call 703-248-5176 for details.

Help Falls Church City Become a Certified Community Habitat!

The Falls Church City Healthy Habitat project needs many more residents to show they care about a healthy local environment by certifying their yards as Backyard Wildlife Habitats.

The Healthy Habitat program is working toward a goal of becoming one of a growing number of cities and counties in the United States to become certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat. To become a certified community, the City needs 135 homes, as well as several schools, parks, and common areas to gain certification. Currently nearly 50 homes have been certified, as well as Thomas Jefferson Elementary, Mount Daniel Elementary, and five City parks (Cherry Hill Park, Crossman Park, West End Park, Cavalier Trail Park, and Berman Park).

The project's overall goal is to conserve, protect and restore an ecologically balanced habitat in our urban environment. The project team envisions a habitat that is healthy for both humans and wildlife, and that promotes clean water, clean air, and environmentally friendly land management.

To qualify for certification, a property needs to provide the four basic elements that support beneficial local wildlife: food, water, cover, and places to raise young; in addition, you should employ at least some sustainable gardening practices, such as mulching, composting, or elimination of chemical yard products. Many yards in the City already meet these requirements and are ready to certify now!

The Healthy Habitat project, initiated in 2005, is sponsored by the Falls Church Environmental Services Council. To learn more about the requirements and to certify online or by mail, go to the backyard wildlife habitat Web site at <https://secure.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/certify/page1.cfm> (please note that there is a \$15 fee to apply for certification). Paper applications are also available at Mary Riley Styles Library.

Beyond the clear positives of a healthier local environment, a successful Healthy Habitat project will assure our children and grandchildren the wonder of seeing a butterfly, chipmunk, or salamander for the first time within City limits, and the healthy environment that comes with it!



Need a New Green Bin?

- ⇒ Is your bin cracked or damaged?
- ⇒ Has your bin disappeared?
- ⇒ Would you like a second bin to use for paper and small cardboard?

New recycling bins are provided by the City at no extra charge and will be delivered to your home. To request a new bin, call 703-248-5176 or email kallan@fallschurchva.gov.



Recycling Saves!

Recycling is not only good for the earth it is also good for our pocketbooks! It costs us about \$50 a ton in tipping fees to dispose of our trash. When we recycle, we earn money instead! By selling our recyclables we keep items out of the landfill and we make about \$38 per ton. In 2005, we saved over \$100,000 through the curbside recycling program.

Paper and cardboard are still the largest component of solid waste. We need to do a better job diverting these items from the waste stream to the recycling stream so we can save even more tax payer money. Follow these helpful tips to increase your paper and cardboard recycling at home.

- ⇒ Keep a paper recycling receptacle (bin or paper bag) next to the trash container in your kitchen, office and any other area of your home where paper is used.
- ⇒ Recycle all paper and cardboard including; paperboard food boxes, toilet paper rolls, junk mail, catalogs, magazines, newspaper, computer paper, books (with cover and binding removed), and all cardboard.
- ⇒ Flatten and fold or cut large cardboard to less than 3' and place under your green bin.

Trash Talk

In order for City crews to safely and efficiently remove our trash, City of Falls Church residents are required to provide proper trash receptacles. Watertight containers between 5 and 30 gallons, each weighing less than 50 pounds are required. Sturdy, containers with a tight fitting lid are recommended in order to keep out animals and avoid litter or accidental spills. Failure to comply with City Code (Sec 13-3) may result in a \$100 fine.

When buying new containers please remember to follow Falls Church requirements! ***Do not buy large rolling containers with a "flip lid"***. These are meant to be used with lift trucks not with the conventional refuse trucks we use in Falls Church. For information regarding refuse collection, please call 703-248-5081.

Watershed News

As part of a water quality grant received from The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the City of Falls Church purchased a ***"Stormceptor"*** unit from Rinker Materials of Frederick, Maryland.

In December 2006, the Stormceptor was installed next to the Community Center in an existing 27-inch storm drain pipe that primarily serves parking lot areas at City Hall and the Community Center.

The Stormceptor is designed to reduce the amount of sediment and oil in stormwater that runs from the parking lots into the storm drains and eventually into our streams. The structure is designed based on pipe flows for a 10-year rain event. Under normal conditions the unit will treat over 50 percent of the water flow through the structure and remove about 65 percent of total suspended solids.

The unit is easy to maintain and is inspected and cleaned out quarterly and after large rain events in order to keep it functioning properly and efficiently.

This grant also provided funding for the rainwater cisterns at the City's Property Yard and the porous pavers and rain garden behind City Hall.

Important Information

Recycling Coordinator	703-248-5176
Recycling Hotline	703-248-5160
Solid Waste Collection	703-248-5316
Special Refuse Collection	703-534-6509
Brush & Yard Waste Collection	703-248-5316
DES Operations - Main Number	703-248-5081
DES - Main Number	703-248-5080
Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility	703-324-5068
Leaf Collection & Mulch Delivery	703-248-5281

Falls Church Recycling Center

217 Gordon Road, Falls Church

Open 7 days a week, 7 AM to dusk

Call: 703-248-5176

Accepts: Plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jugs, metal food and beverage cans, mixed paper, newspaper, cardboard and textiles. Free

Fairfax County Transfer Station

4618 W. Ox Road, Fairfax

Open 7 days a week

Call 703-631-1179

Accepts: Plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jugs, metal food and beverage cans, mixed paper, newspaper, cardboard, used motor oil and antifreeze, auto batteries, button batteries, scrap metal (including appliances), yard waste and trash. Free except for yard waste and appliances.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

At Fairfax County Transfer Station (see above)

Open Thursday 1-5 PM, Fridays 8 AM – noon, Saturdays 8 AM – noon. Free.

For information in your language please call 703 248-5176 (TTY 711) to request an interpreter.

Để có thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị, xin gọi 703-248-5176 để yêu cầu người thông dịch.

Para recibir información en su idioma por favor llame al 703 248-5176 (TTY 711) para solicitar un interprete.

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document will be made available in alternate format upon request. Call 703-248-5176 (TTY 711).

The City does not sponsor or endorse any of the businesses or non-governmental organizations listed in this publication. **Printed on 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper. Please save this newsletter, pass it to a friend, or recycle it!**

Department of Environmental Services
Office of Recycling
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046-3332
703-248-5176

Distributed by your block captain.